

Tribal Council before serving as president for a short time.

He had many ambitious plans to assist at-risk youth, create good-paying jobs, and expand programs to improve safety in Tribal communities.

President Bluehouse will always be remembered for his commitment to the Navajo people and for ensuring the Federal Government upheld its obligations to the Tribe.

My prayers are with his family and loved ones and the entire Navajo Nation as they mourn his passing and celebrate his life.

IT IS TIME TO OPEN UP GOVERNMENT

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, it is time to open up government. We can no longer think that we are not having an impact on our economy. We can no longer think that the safety of Americans who fly in our skies or eat the food in America is not at risk. We can no longer imagine that the millions of families who are being impacted are not suffering.

It is time. This is the greatest Nation on Earth. It is the only one in my entire lifetime that I have seen that has closed down government. Our counties don't do it; our States don't do it; our cities don't do it. But the greatest Nation on Earth can find a way to close down government?

This should never, ever happen in our country. We should never put our citizens through this. We have the money to pay the staff. We have to find ways to get out of this problem and never let it happen again.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL WISNER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a Franklin High School graduate from Venango County on earning a prestigious fellowship.

Michael Wisner, who graduated from Franklin High School in 2015 and is expected to graduate from Princeton University in June, has been awarded the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship following a nationwide contest.

The fellowship is funded by the U.S. Department of State and administered by Howard University right here in Washington.

The Rangel Graduate Fellowship is a program that aims to attract and prepare outstanding young people for careers in the Foreign Service, where they can help formulate, represent, and implement U.S. foreign policy.

The Rangel program selects outstanding fellows annually in a highly competitive nationwide process and supports them through 2 years of graduate study, internships, mentoring, and professional development activities.

Michael is completing certificates at Princeton in African studies, history

and the practice of diplomacy, and Latin American studies.

He spent a summer abroad in Greece and a semester abroad in Argentina, where he worked as an English as a second language instructor. Since 2016, he has taught English as a second language at the resource center of Catholic Charities in New Jersey.

Impressively, he also worked with Engineers Without Borders to design and install a water system in Peru. As part of the project, he co-led a 12-person team to author a Spanish language water system manual for community use.

During his time at Franklin High School, Michael was committed to academics, sports, and community activities. He was named salutatorian of his class. He played football and was captain of the team. He was also a wrestler and attained the rank of Eagle Scout with Boy Scouts of America.

Michael is the son of Tom and Nancy Wisner of Polk, Pennsylvania, in Venango County.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for American men and women who are committed to serving this country at home and abroad. I have no doubt that Michael will excel in his fellowship and help promote positive change globally. I congratulate Michael Wisner on this outstanding achievement, and I wish him the best as he pursues this opportunity.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share the stories of hardworking Granite Staters who are feeling the pain of this shutdown on its 26th day.

Middle-class families in New Hampshire are suffering because politicians in Washington can't complete the most basic task of governing. They are fed up with the gridlock and endless delays. They are exhausted by the partisan political excuses. They just want us to do our jobs and reopen the Federal Government.

This weekend, I met with an air traffic controller from Derry. He told me that his coworkers are not going to be able to pay their mortgages and keep up with household bills if the shutdown goes on any longer. He explained that they are intensely proud of the service they provide to the American people and simply want to do their jobs and get paid on time. Is that really too much to ask?

Mr. Speaker, let's reopen our government for the sake of every Federal employee who works tirelessly to keep the traveling public safe.

Two fire departments in my district, in Goffstown and Hampton, have applied for SAFER grants through FEMA. They needed the process to begin in December in order to get approval at town meetings in March. The

shutdown has blocked the review of these applications.

Mr. Speaker, let's reopen our government so local fire departments and first responders can get the resources they need to protect our communities.

The spiraling effects of this shutdown are becoming more apparent each and every day. The Manchester Transit Authority is concerned about whether they will be able to keep buses running, since they haven't been able to draw on Federal funds since December.

In addition, crisis centers in New Hampshire haven't been able to access the funding they typically receive from the Office of Violence Against Women to assist survivors of sexual and domestic violence. That is completely unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, let's reopen our government so people can get to work on time and local organizations can continue to support victims of crime and abuse.

The President says this shutdown is necessary to protect the American people, yet every story I hear in my district demonstrates this shutdown is making us less safe. The longer our government remains closed, the less secure our country will be.

Mr. Speaker, this shutdown has shown us the worst of Washington, the dysfunction and the political gamesmanship that has no regard for people's lives. But it is also bringing out the very best of people in my State, their sense of decency and patriotism, their willingness to lend a helping hand to neighbors in need.

Granite Staters have been banding together to help Federal workers in a variety of ways, from offering no-interest loans to offering food donations. The Wood Island Life Saving Station Association is giving gift cards to Coast Guard personnel in Portsmouth to help them make ends meet while they work without pay.

People in our communities are coming together to support everyday Americans who are the victims of this shutdown, so why can't our leaders in Washington do the same?

To my colleagues from across the aisle, to our colleagues in the Senate: End this shutdown now. Let's move forward with the people's business. We need to reopen the government, and we need to do it before this bad situation gets any worse.

SUPPORTING EGYPTIAN COPTIC CHRISTIANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on National Religious Freedom Day to announce that I am reintroducing my resolution in the House in support of the Coptic Christians in Egypt.

I sponsored a nearly identical resolution last Congress, and I truly appreciate the support I received from more than 50 of my House colleagues who co-sponsored that resolution.